

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 IO-14 NIC-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SR-02 ORM-03 DRC-01

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R 281726Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9227

INFO USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L 1788

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAG CI, PFOR, US, DA

SUBJ: CHILE TRIBUNAL IN COPENHAGEN

REF: COPENHAGEN 1772

SUMMARY. ANTI-JUNTA TRIBUNAL IN COPENHAGEN HEARD FORMER SWEDISH
AMBASSADOR TO CHILE HAROLD EDESTAM, SECRETARY GENERAL OF CHILE'S
SOCIALIST PARTY CARLOS ALTAMIRANO AND CHILEAN AIR FORCE MAJOR ALA-
MIRO CASTILLO DURING SECOND AND CONCLUDING DAY OF SESSION.

LAST WITNESS EXPLICITLY ALLEGED U.. INVOLVEMENT IN ALLENDE OVER-
THROW. END SUMMARY.

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1. ALTAMIRANDS REPORT TO TRIBUNAL CONCENTRATED ON JUNTA'S ALLEGED USE OF TORTURE IN POST-COUP ROUND-UP OF POLITICAL PRISONERS. HIS REPORT WAS BASED ON INVESTIGATION BY WHAT PRESS IDENTIFIED AS AN "INDEPENDENT CHURCH ORGANIZATION". THESE CHARGES WERE SUPPORTED BY EDELSTAM WHO READ TO PARTICIPANTS AN ACCOUNT WRITTEN BY WIDOW OF FORMER CHILEAN VICE-PRESIDENT JOSE TOHA DESCRIBING HUSBAND'S TREATMENT FOLLOWING ARREST AND DURING IMPRISONMENT ON DAWSON ISLAND.

2. WITNESS WHO MOST DIRECTLY RAISED U.S. INVOLVEMENT ISSUE WAS CASTILLO. CITING HIGHLY CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE, I.E; PRESENCE OF LARGE US MILITARY ASSISTANCE GROUP IN CHILEAN DEFENSE MINISTRY, FACT THAT COUP CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH US TACTICAL DOCTRINE FOR "MILITARY ACTIONS". - MAXIMUM FIRE-POWER, DESTRUCTION OF POLITICAL PARTIES ETC. - CASTILLO COCLUDED THAT THE COUP WAS "SUPPORTED BY THE USA. WITHOUT USA'S HELP THE CHILEAN MILITARY WOULD NEVER HAVE DARED SUCH AN ACTION".

3. IN OTHER TESTIMONY, CHILEAN LAWYER AND FORMER CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT RAFAEL AGUSTIN GUMACIO ARGUED THAT PRESENT MARTIAL LAW IS ILLEGAL IN THAT CONSTITUTION PERMITS ITS USE ONLY IN CONNECTION WITH INVASION BY FOREIGN FORCES. ARGENTINIAN SENATOR AND RADICAL PARTY MEMBER, HIPOLITO SOLARI IRIGOYEN, REPORTED ON VISIT BY ARGENTINIAN SENATORIAL DELEGATION TO CHILE.

4. HIGH POINT OF THE TRIBUNAL, REPORTEDLY, WAS EDELSTAM'S ACCOUNT OF HIS ACTIVITIES DURING COUP ITSELF, ESPECIALLY HIS EFFORTS TO PROTECT CUBAN EMBASSY AND SECURE EXIT AUTHORIZATIONS FOR CUBAN DIPLOMATS AND OTHER POLITICAL REFUGEES. WHEN REPORTER ASKED AFTER THE HEARING WHAT ROLE DANISH EMBASSY HAD PLAYED, EDELSTAM SAID "THE DANISH EMBASSY DID ABSOLUTELY NOTHING"

5. IN ALL, TRIBUNAL HEARD THIRTY WITNESSES IN OPEN SESSION. MOST TESTIMONY DEALT WITH LEGAL ASPECTS OF FORTHCOMING TRIALS OF THIRTY-THREE PROMINENT PERSONS AND WAS ACCORDINGLY, OF LITTLE PYRO-TECHNIC PRESS VALUE. EMBASSY INFORMED THAT AT LEAST SOME PARTICIPANTS ARE DISSATISFIED WITH "HASTY" PREPARATIONS FOR THE SESSION AND WITH THE RESULTANT LACK OF PUBLIC OPINION IMPACT.

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6. LOCAL PRESS AND TV COVERAGE, HOWEVER, WHILE MODEST HAS BEEN STRONGLY PRO-TRIBUNAL. ONLY ONE PUBLIC FIGURE, ARNE CHRISTIANSEN OF MODERATE LIBERAL (GOVT PARTY) HAS PUBLICLY VOICED MILD CRITICISM OVER FACT THAT TRIBUNAL HELD IN CHRISTIANSBORG PALACE (SEAT OF DANISH GOVT).
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